AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A method for producing a birefringent film, comprising the step of stretching a polymer film,

wherein, in the step of stretching the polymer film, the polymer film is stretched in a width direction while being shrunk in a longitudinal direction, and

wherein based on the lengths in the width direction and the longitudinal direction of the polymer film before being stretched, a change ratio (STD) of the length in the width direction of the polymer film resulting from the stretching and a change ratio (SMD) of the length in the longitudinal direction of the polymer film resulting from the shrinking satisfy a relationship represented by the following formula (1)

$$(1/STD)^{1/2} \leq SMD < 1 \qquad ... (1), \text{ and}$$

wherein the slow axis of the birefringent film is in a direction that coincides with [[a]] the width direction in which of the polymer film is stretched.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the SMD is less than 0.99.

4. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the $(1/STD)^{1/2}$ is less than 0.99.

5. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein when the STD is 1.2, the SMD is in a range from 0.9 to 0.92.

6. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein when the STD is 1.3, the SMD is in a range from 0.86 to 0.90.

7. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein, after the polymer film is formed on a base directly, the polymer film is subjected to the stretching treatment and the shrinking treatment at the same time.

8. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the base is subjected to the stretching treatment and the shrinking treatment at the same time, thereby stretching and shrinking the polymer film on the base.

9. Cancelled.

10. Cancelled.

11. Cancelled.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.

15. Cancelled.